

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 SR-02 ORM-03 DPW-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /123 W

----- 127819

R 061012 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8669

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E. O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS: SREF, MOPS, XD

SUBJ: EXCHANGES OF REFUGEES AND POWS IN SUBCONTINENT

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 2033; B. ISLAMABAD 2101;

C. ISLAMABAD 2197 NOTAL; D. LONDON 3038

NOTAL; E. KARACHI 370 NOTAL

BEGIN SUMMARY: GOP, SIND PROVINCE AND ICRC OFFICIALS  
HAVE BEEN DRAWING UP REPATRIATION PLANS INVOLVING  
BENGALEE AND PAKISTANI CIVILIANS. ICRC CONTINUES TO  
PROCESS 15,000 BENGALEES FOR REPATRIATION, THOUGH USG  
OFFER PARTIALLY TO UNDERWRITE TRANSPORT NOT YET  
PICKED UP. BENGALEES CONTINUE TO ESCAPE TO AFGHANISTAN  
BUT SOME HAVE BEEN CAUGHT. SENIOR BENGALEE EX- CIVIL  
SERVANTS IN ISLAMABAD BEING REQUIRED DOUBLE UP IN  
HOUSING BUT MOVEMENTS NOT OTHERWISE RESTRICTED.  
END SUMMARY.

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1. GOP AND SIND PROVINCE OFFICIALS MET MARCH 17 IN KARACHI, REPORTEDLY TO PLAN FOR REPATRIATION MOVE INVOLVING ARRIVAL OF 37,000 PAKISTANI CIVIL DETAINEES FROM INDIA AND REPATRIATION OF 15,000 BENGALLEES TO BANGLADESH. ICRC KARACHI DELEGATE CLERC ALSO ATTENDED. ACCORDING TO ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE TESTUZ, MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PAKISTANI DETAINEES TO BE REPATRIATED FROM INDIA WOULD BE 6,000, MOST OF WHOM HAVE BEEN CANVASSED BY ICRC INDIA. TO DATE ONLY ABOUT 2,000 HAVE INDICATED INTEREST IN RETURNING TO PAKISTAN ( OTHERS APPARENTLY PREFER TO REMAIN IN INDIA AS LONG AS THEIR HUSBANDS ARE IN POW CAMPS). TESTUZ HAD NOT HEARD THE 37 ,000 FIGURE.

2. TESTUZ CONFIRMED CONGEN KARACHI' S INFORMATION THAT GOP OFFICIALS DISCUSSED MOVEMENT OF PAKISTANI RETURNEES, WHO WOULD ENTER OVERLAND VIA ATTARI/ WAGAH. THOSE NATIVE TO NORTHERN PAKISTAN WOULD BE PROCESSED NEAR LAHORE AND DISTRIBUTED TO THEIR OWN VILLAGES SHORTLY HEREAFTER. REMAINDER, PERHAPS MORE THAN HALF THOSE INVOLVED, WOULD PROCEED DIRECTLY BY TRAIN TO KARACHI WHERE THEY WOULD BE PROCESSED AT HAJI TRANSIT CAMP FACILITIES AT KARACHI AIRPORT. TESTUZ SAID SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE PAKISTANI RETURNEES FROM BANGLADESH WAS MENTIONED ONLY IN PASSING, SINCE NO WORD YET RECEIVED FROM BDG CONCERNING LIST OF 12,000 BENGALLEE NAMES SENT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO TO DACCA BY ICRC. PROBLEM OF STAGING BENGALLEES EXITING PAKISTAN WAS ALSO DISCUSSED BUT DISCUSSION WAS INCONCLUSIVE BECAUSE AS YET THERE ARE NO FIRM INDICATIONS WHETHER BENGALLEES WOULD LEAVE PAKISTAN VIA LAND BORDER OR KARACHI PORT.

3. CONGEN KARACHI REPORTS THAT ICRC DELEGATE CLERC BELIEVES STIPULATION THAT BENGALLEES BE RETURNED TO CHITTAGONG BY SEA STILL HOLDS. CLERC ADDED THAT USE OF PAKISTANI HAJ PILGRIMAGE SHIPS WAS CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED, SINCE GOPMAINTAINS THAT PAK FLAG VESSELS WOULD BE SEIZED UPON ARRIVAL AT CHITTAGONG. TESTUZ CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS GOP POSITION AND ADDED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED TENTATIVE USG OFFER TO FINANCE PART OF TRANSPORT FOR BENGALLEES WITH GOP AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS ( ONLY ONE HE

NAMED WAS SWEDEN). HE SAID MOST FEARED MULTI- NATIONAL FINANCED SHIPS REACHING CHITTAGONG WOULD BE FORCED BY BDG TO BRING BACK TO PAKISTAN "2,000 BIHARIS." HE SAID HE PERSONALLY PREFERRED LAND ROUTE FOR REPATRIATES AND BELIEVED BDG ALSO PREFERRED IT, DESPITE PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM DACCA TO CONTRARY . HE CLAIMED ONLY REACTION THUS FAR FROM GOI WAS QUESTION AS TO WHO WOULD PAY FOR LAND TRANSPORTATION. HE THOUGHT INDIANS HAD PUT THAT QUESTION TO BDG, BUT THAT BDG HAD NOT YET RESPONDED.

4. ON APRIL 6, TESTUZ REPORTED THAT ICRC HAD COMPLETED EXTRA PAPERWORK ON BENGALLEES DEMANDED BY GOP. PAPERS HAD BEEN SENT TO GOP TO BE ENDORSED, FOLLOWING WHICH THEY WOULD BE RETURNED TO ICRC FOR RETENTION UNTIL THEY ARE USED BY BENGALLEES AS EXIT PERMITS. ( THIS IS APPARENTLY BASIS OF HEADLINE STORY IN APRIL 6 GOVERNMENT- CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES, WHICH REPORTED THAT GOP HAD DECIDED TO DEPOSIT WITH ICRC EXIT PERMITS FOR 15,000 BENGALLEES, IN ORDER " TO PUT AN END TO THE INCIAN AND BANGLADESH PROPAGANDA THAT PAKISTAN HAD NOT COMPLETED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REPATRIATION OF BENGALIS.")

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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5. CONGEN KARACHI HAS REPORTED THAT, DESPITE ICRC PREPARATION NECESSARY TRAVEL PAPERS FOR STRANDED BENGALIEE SEAMEN AND UNDERSTANDING THEY WOULD BE INCLUDED IN MARCH 10 EXCHANGE ( REFTEL B), BENGALIEE SEAMEN REMAIN STRANDED IN KARACHI. TESTUZ CONFIRMED THIS AND ADDED THAT 79 INDIAN SEAMEN WERE REPATRIATED VIA WAGAH/ ATTARI ON MARCH 10, AND THAT ONLY ONE IN THAT CATEGORY REMAINED IN PAKISTAN ( APPARENTLY SEAMAN WAS TO ILL TO MOVE ON MARCH 10).

6. TESTUZ SAID HE WAS " ARGRY" AT SHEIKH MUJIB FOR HAVING SAID THAT ICRC PAKISTAN WAS DOING " NOTHING" FOR BENGALIEES IN PAKISTAN. HE MAINTAINED THAT ICRC RELIEF PROGRAM FOR DESTITUTE BENGALIEES WAS CONTINUING FULL PACE ( NOTING IN THAT REGARD THAT HE RECEIVED SHIPMENT OF USAID BISCUITS APRIL 6), AND THAT VISITS TO MILITARY DETAINEES CONTINUED UNABATED. HE ASSERTED THAT MILITARY DETAINEES WERE IN " EXCELLENT SHAPE",  
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AND SHOWED EMBOFF RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF DETAINEES MEETING ICRC DELEGATE CLERC. ( COMMENT: IF PHOTOGRAPHS CAN BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE, MILITARY DETAINEES LOOKED NORMALLY HEALTHY.)

7. TESTUZ CONFIRMED RECENT REPORTS FROM ISLAMABAD BENGALIEE COMMUNITY THAT SENIOR EX- CIVIL SERVANTS WERE BEING ASKED TO DOUBLE UP WITH OTHERS, LEAVING SOME HOUSES FREE FOR OCCUPATION BY INCOMING GOP CIVIL SERVANTS. HE ALSO CONFIRMED BENGALIEE STORIES TO EFFECT THAT ESCAPES INTO AFGHANISTAN, WHICH HAD DIED DOWN IN FEBRUARY, HAD BEGUN TO MULTIPLY IN EARLY MARCH. HE ADDED THAT THREE " SENIOR" BENGALIEES WERE CAUGHT TRYING TO ESCAPE IN LATE MARCH, AND SUGGESTED THAT THIS WOULD PROBABLY SLOW UP ESCAPE ATTEMPTS TEMPORARILY. IN PESSIMISTIC VEIN, TESTUZ SAID HE EXPECTED GOP TO FURTHER CUT ALLOWANCES TO BENGALIEES IN JUNE. WHEN ASKED WHY, HE RECALLED THAT GOP HAD MADE PUBLIC STATEMENT AT THE END OF JUNE 1972 TO EFFECT THAT IT WOULD PAY ALLOWANCES TO BENGALIEES " FOR ONE YEAR."

8. RECENTLY, TESTUZ ( WITH UNCHARACTERISTIC EMOTION) SAID HE FOUND HIS JOB " FRUSTRATING," AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE MIGHT SOON LEAVE ISLAMABAD. THOUGH HE PROFESSED

UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHAT HIS PLANS THEREAFTER WOULD BE,  
HE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING A SORT OF  
" MESSENGER" BETWEEN BANGLADESH, INDIA AND PAKISTAN.  
SOBER

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**TAGS:** MOPS, SREF, XD  
**To:** BERN  
DACCA  
GENEVA  
KARACHI  
LAHORE  
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